

## **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL LICENSE TARGETS**

The department needs to modify commercial fishing license authorization targets. The proposed action makes modifications to the authorization targets to reflect the number of tidal fish license conversions.

Natural Resources Article, §4-701, Annotated Code of Maryland allows the conversion (downgrade) of an unlimited tidal fish license (UTFL) into its individual component authorizations and allows the Department to adjust all authorizations accordingly. Applicants may choose which license components of the UTFL they want to retain. Downgrading a UTFL decreases the UTFL target and increases the target of each license type that is included in a UTFL (resident fishing guide (FGR); unlimited finfish harvester (FIN); crab harvester 300 pot (CB3); clam harvester (CLM); oyster harvester (OYH); oyster dredge boat (ODB); and conch, cancer crab, turtle, lobster (CTL)). The number and type of authorizations involved in a downgrade of a UTFL provide the basis for changes to the license authorization target levels.

In summary, the UTFL number is decreased by 11 and the number for FGR, FIN, CB3, CLM, OYH, ODB, and CTL is increased by 11 each. The total number of UTFL downgrades includes: three from the 2015/2016 license year; two from the 2016/2017 license year; five from the 2017/2018 license year; and one from the 2018/2019 license year. The downgrades included in this proposal that occurred during the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 license years were discovered while confirming data and have not been captured in previous regulation proposals.

The proposed action shows the target number for each authorization available after all of the additions and subtractions. The targets are correct as of April 15, 2019.